

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3136
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2016
Easier Science
Venugopal Dr. Ponnusamy

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to make the pursuit of science easier and increase the resources for research;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government would steer clear of any reference to the contributions of ancient India to science; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI. Y.S. CHOWDARY)

(a) & (b): Government has taken several measures to make the pursuit of science easier. The research infrastructure of Universities/Colleges has been significantly strengthened through schemes like Fund for improvement of S&T infrastructures in universities and higher educational institutions (FIST) and Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE). The in-house sophisticated analytical instruments created through the schemes have made the research work easier and efficient. The Science and Engineering Research Board, a Statutory body, established for the purpose of de-bureaucratizing the science sector has been strengthened to evolve innovative funding schemes and provide quick support to needy scientists. The levels of peer review and approval mechanisms has been re-structured to make the funding process quick with known yardsticks of measurements. Project Investigators were provided operational flexibility through rationalization of budget heads. Steps were taken to build e-based management systems to bring more transparency in the processes, efficiency and speed of service delivery. The funding for R&D has been steadily increased as evident from the fact that the plan allocation (RE) of Ministry of Science and Technology in the past three years including the current year are Rs. 5145 crore, Rs. 5495 crore and Rs. 7200.8 crore respectively.

(c) & (d): Government has been referencing the contributions of ancient India to science and try to inculcate the present generation about the vantage position the ancient India occupied in scientific leadership. Ancient Indians excelled in areas of mathematics, astronomy, metallurgy, town planning, and architecture. Herbal medicine was practiced on an empirical basis. Science and Engineering Research Board is supporting a program on Ayurvedic biology which aims to understand the mechanisms of biological action of Ayurvedic drugs.
